

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Action mailed May 4, 2004, with a shortened statutory period of three months set to expire August 4, 2004. With this amendment, claims 1, 9, and 17 have been amended.

Applicants have amended the claims to describe a plurality of devices that are coupled together using a first network and concurrently coupled together using a separate second network. The devices are accessed using the first and second networks concurrently. A plurality of first addresses is assigned to each one of these devices for the first network. A plurality of second addresses assigned to each of the devices is determined for the second network. Responsive to a determination that a first address is not identical to a second address for one of the devices, a new address is assigned to that device for the first network such that the new address is used to access the device by the first network. The new address is identical to the second address that is used to access the device by the second network.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,974,562 issued to *Townsend*. This rejection, as it might be applied to the claims as amended, is respectfully traversed.

*Townsend* teaches a first station and a second station. When the first station is functioning properly, the first and second stations are set with different identifications. Data containing network management information is sent to the first station. When the first station is about to fail, the identification of the second station is reset with the identification that has been assigned to the first station. Data containing network management information is then sent to the second station.

Applicants claim devices that are coupled together using both a first network and a separate second network. The devices are accessed concurrently using the first network and the second network. *Townsend* does not teach devices that are coupled together using a first network and a second network where the devices are accessed concurrently using the first and second networks. *Townsend* teaches two stations that are coupled together using one network 326. The network address of the second station is reset when

the first station is about to fail. Changing network addresses, however, is not the same thing as coupling devices together using two separate networks.

Applicants also claim the devices being accessed concurrently using the first and second networks. *Townsend* does not teach accessing the first station and the second station concurrently using two separate networks.

Applicants claim assigning first addresses to the device for a first network. Second addresses are then determined that are assigned to the devices for the second network. *Townsend* does not teach determining second addresses that are assigned to the stations for a second network. *Townsend* teaches reassigning a network address for the second station when the first station is about to fail. This, however, is a reassignment of a network address for the same network. Prior to the first station being about to fail, the second station was addressed using a unique address. When the first station was about to fail, the address for the second station is reassigned to the address that had been assigned to the first station. The second station, then, has an address for a particular network that is then changed to a new address. The new address is for the same particular network. *Townsend* does not teach determining second addresses that are assigned to the stations for a second network.

Applicants claim reassigning a new address to a particular device when the first address assigned to that device for a first network is not identical to the second address that is assigned to that device for the second network. A new address is reassigned to that device for the first device such that the new address is used to access the device by the first network and such that the new address is identical to the second address assigned to that device. *Townsend* does not teach this feature. As described above, *Townsend* teaches changing a network address for a station for a particular network. The old address is used to address the station for that network. The new address is also used to address the station for the same network.

*Townsend* describes a station having a MAC address and an IP address. These are addresses for the same network. The MAC address identifies the physical address of the work station while the IP address identifies the logical address. These are not addresses for the station for different networks. These are addresses for the same network. Therefore, this does not teach a device having a first address for a first network and a

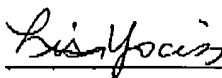
second address for a second network. This section of the reference describes a first address for a first network and a second address for that same network.

*Townsend* does not anticipate Applicants' claims. *Townsend* does not describe, teach, or suggest a plurality of devices that are coupled together using a first network and a separate second network, the devices being accessed using the first and second networks concurrently, a plurality of first addresses being assigned to each one of these devices for the first network, a plurality of second addresses assigned to each of the devices being determined for the second network, responsive to a determination that a first address is not identical to a second address for one of the devices, a new address being assigned to that device for the first network such that the new address is used to access the device by the first network where the new address is identical to the second address that is used to access the device by the second network.

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: 08.04.04

Respectfully submitted,



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